1: Jenness--221
116, 525

(1913-16) 1922 Copper Eskimo

"Bathurst inlet natives who visited our station in the early spring of 1916 were responsible for the introduction of a new game, nugluak, into that region. The natives had learned it from the Eskimos of Backs river, so that it has evidently spread north from Hudson bay.(1) About a dozen men and women were playing it in May beside our station. A short flat bone plate about two inches long was made fast by cords of sinew to the ridge pole of the tent above and to a large stone on the floor below, so that it was suspended taut some two feet above the ground. A small hole had been drilled in the middle of the plate, and the natives, sitting all round in a ring, tried to push darts through it, the darts being shafts of wood from two to four feet long pointed with horn. They were all spearing at once, and their darts rattled together and pushed each other away; the plate too quivered and shook, so that sometimes a minute would elapse before one of them penetrated the hole. As one player grew tired and withdrew another took his place. Half their days for nearly a week were spent in this idle occupation. It was the only game, as far as I know, in which the natives gambled. They would stake knives

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"1. See quotation in Culin, p.472 et seq. Mr. Stefansson mentions a game with the same name at Baillie island (Anthrop. Papers, A.M.N.H., Vol. XIV, pt. I, p. 348.)"

and cartridges and powder and almost anything else they had, and the same knife would pass through several hands in the course of a single day."